

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-19, and 23 remain in the application.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 11-12, 14, and 23 have been amended. Claims 3, 10, and 20-22 have been cancelled.

In the first paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the specification has been objected to because of informalities. Appropriate correction has been made.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1-22 have been objected to because of informalities. Appropriate correction has been made.

In the seventh paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 12-13 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Appropriate correction has been made.

In the penultimate paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that the "alternatingly offset" grippers and gripper pads recited in claim 21 and the grippers and gripper pads of an upstream cylinder being movable "relative to" the grippers and gripper pads of a downstream cylinder recited in claim 22 must be shown or the feature(s) cancelled from the claim(s). Claims 21-22 have been cancelled.

In the second paragraph on page 3 of the above-identified Office action, claims 19-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that in claims 19 and 20 the gripper being lowered by the second drive during closure of the gripper is not adequately supported by the disclosure. The Examiner has also stated that in claim 21 it is not clear how the grippers and gripper pads along one row are "alternatingly offset" relative to one another. The Examiner further stated that in claim 22 it is not clear how the grippers and gripper pads of an upstream cylinder are

movable "relative to" the grippers and gripper pads of a downstream cylinder. Claims 20-22 have been cancelled. It is noted that claim 9 does not recite the gripper being lowered by the second drive during closure of the gripper.

It is accordingly believed that the specification and the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph(s). Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic and/or clarificatory reasons. The changes are neither provided for overcoming the prior art nor do they narrow the scope of the claims for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In the fourth paragraph on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1 and 23 have been rejected as being anticipated by Ochs (DE 4 233 422) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In the first paragraph on page 5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 2-8 and 16 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Ochs in view of Thunker et al. (US Pat. Applic. Pub. No. 2002/0063383) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In the third paragraph on page 6 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 9 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Ochs in view of Thunker et al. and further in view of Lange et al. (US Pat. No. 6,048,297) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In the last paragraph on page 6 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 17-18 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Ochs in view of Thunker et al. and further in view of Maass et al. (US Pat. No. 5,431,099) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejections have been noted and claims 1 and 23 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. More specifically, the features of claims 3 and 10 have been added to claims 1 and 23.

Since claim 10 contains allowable subject matter as indicated in the first paragraph on page 7 of the Office action, claims 1 and 23 are now believed to be allowable. Since claims 2, 4-9, and 17-18 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to allowable as well.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in the first paragraph on page 7 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 10-11 and 14-15 would be allowable if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The feature of claim 10 has been added to claim 1. Claim 14 has been written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claims 11 and 15 are dependent on allowable claims 1 or 14, they are believed to be allowable in dependent form.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in the second paragraph on page 7 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 12-13 and 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first or second paragraph, set forth in the Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable as discussed above and claims 12-13 and 19 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be allowable in dependent form. Claim 12 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 20 has been cancelled.

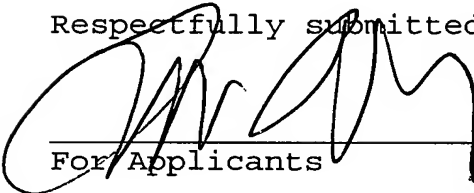
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-19, and 23 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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